

experienced a 30.9% increase in the enrollment of elementary and secondary school students from 1990–1998.

The bottom line here is that we have a growing population of students, and we do not have the infrastructure in place to properly accommodate all of them. These are frightening statistics for the future of our nation. It is our responsibility to our children to take action on this matter immediately. We wouldn't think of sending our men and women in the armed services into a battle without the best training they can be supplied. Why are we sending our children into this global economy and competitive world with less than the best preparation? This is indeed an issue of national security for the United States.

Let's forget about the future for a moment and focus on where we are putting our children now. In a study issued by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) on the conditions of public schools, three-quarters of all schools reported the need to spend money on repairs, renovations, and modernization to bring their school buildings into good overall condition. Approximately one-fifth of schools indicated less than adequate conditions for life safety features, roofs, and electric power. They also reported that 43% of the schools reported that at least one of six environmental factors was in unsatisfactory condition. Moreover, about 36% of schools indicated that they used portable classrooms.

But wait, it gets worse. NCES also reports that 78% of all schools in rural America need to be repaired and modernized. Nearly one-half (47%) of all schools in rural America have unsatisfactory environmental conditions. Over 30% report inadequate heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

How do we expect our students to improve their performance if we are not meeting their basic needs? The National Education Association estimates that the total funding need for public school modernization is \$321.9 billion. Of that total, \$268.2 billion is needed for school infrastructures and \$53.7 billion is needed for education technologies.

We must take action now to enable us to provide the best education possible for our current and future students. We must pass legislation that will facilitate the construction and repair of our nations public schools. We must strongly consider passing legislation like H.R. 415. The majority party in the Congress should make this a priority—not put it on a back burner.

We can't afford to waste any more time. While we fight about the cost and the most effective ways to improve our schools, there is a student in California who can't go out to play because her playground is now filled with portable classrooms. While we struggle to realize that this is an issue of the highest priority, a student in New York is walking around a trash can in the middle of the hall that is catching the rain water falling from a leaky roof. Let's not wait any longer.

My fellow colleagues, let's pass legislation that will allow our students to learn and our teachers to teach in a safe, clean, uncrowded environment. I truly believe that the future economic health and security of our nation depends upon it.

TRIBUTE TO J.R. CURTIS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of an exceptional man, an outstanding community leader and beloved citizen of Longview, Texas, the late J.R. Curtis, whose life was cut short at the age of 55 following a motorcycle accident on September 2 in Durango, Colorado. J.R. lived life with enthusiasm—and with a tremendous devotion to his family, his community, his friends and his faith. He leaves a remarkable legacy of professional and civic accomplishments—as well as a legacy of loving relationships with his family and many friends.

J.R. was born on August 18, 1945, to James R. Curtis, Sr., and Sarah DeRue Armstrong Curtis of Longview. He graduated from Longview High School in 1963 and graduated from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth in 1967. He also attended the American Institute of Foreign Trade in Glendale, Ariz., from 1967–68.

J.R. was a successful and popular radio broadcaster in Longview. He purchased KFRO AM/FM radio station from his father in 1986 and was the owner and manager until 1998. He also became owner of KLSQ-FM and operated KNYN in Santa Fe, N.M. He began his broadcasting career in high school, working for his father's station as sportscaster for KFRO's Wednesday night Teen Time Program. He learned all aspects of the radio business, from engineering to news and sales, at an early age.

J.R. was active in the Texas Association of Broadcasters, serving as a medium market director for TAB and as president of TAB. He was named Texas Broadcaster of the Year in 1990. He also was active at the national level, serving as a member of the National Association of Broadcasters Blitz Committee and as a director of NAB in Washington, DC, from 1996–99.

In addition to broadcasting, J.R. served as president of the Curtis Foundation, president of Workmans Oil Co., and a director of First Federal Savings Bank of Longview from 1982–1997. At the time of his death, he was employed as a consultant with Longview Economic Development Corp.

J.R. served nine years on the Longview City Council, from 1975–1984. In 1977 he became the youngest mayor in Texas when he was appointed by the council at age 33 to the city's top job. His recent community involvement included serving as president and vice president of Longview 20/20 Forum; finance chairman of Longview Museum of Fine Arts, 1997; director of Longview Partnership, 1995–98; and a member of the administrative board of First United Methodist Church, 1996–98. He had a 19-year perfect attendance record in the Longview Rotary Club, where for many years he kept the membership informed of local and national news.

Other involvements included serving as president of Gregg County Housing Finance Corp., executive committee member for the East Texas Council of Governments, director

of Little Cypress Utility District, director of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, foundation board member of Good Shepherd Medical Center, foundation board member of LeTourneau University, board member of Crisman Preparatory School and a volunteer for many other organizations. He was a member of the Collier Sunday School Class at First United Methodist Church and an usher at the church.

J.R. is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Sue Skaggs Curtis; his son and daughter-in-law, Jason Skaggs Curtis and Janey of Fort Worth; his daughter, Elizabeth Ann Curtis of Longview; granddaughter, Margaret Lynn of Fort Worth; his aunt, Ruth Elizabeth Curtis Gray of Longview; mother-in-law, Fredna Skaggs of Longview; brother-in-law Bill Hodges of Longview and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Lucas of Longview; two nephews and a niece, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Elizabeth DeRue Curtis Hodges.

J.R. had biked to Durango with five friends for an annual getaway vacation. He died as he had lived—with enthusiasm for life and for friendship. He will long be remembered for the significant contributions he made to his beloved city of Longview. As his wife and high school sweetheart, Sue Curtis, noted, "He loved Longview. He believed in Longview. He was born here and went to school here and wanted to make it a better place."

And he did. J.R.'s influence can be found everywhere in Longview—and will be felt for years to come. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in celebration of the life of this wonderful man and citizen of Longview, Texas—J.R. Curtis, whose memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who knew him and loved him.

RECOGNIZING MS. KARIN M. ORBON PARTICIPANT IN THE 2000 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Ms. Karin M. Orbon. Ms. Orbon has been selected to participate in the 2000 Awards for Excellence in Teaching exchange program between the United States and six countries in the former Soviet Union. Ms. Orbon will be visiting Russia as a member of the 23 teacher U.S. delegation.

The teachers chosen for this assignment were selected from a pool of educators who had previously been honored for their excellence in teaching through such programs as the annual U.S. Teacher of the Year Award and the Milken Educator Awards. Ms. Orbon, a computer, business and accounting teacher at North Brookfield High School is a recipient of the Milken award.

The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 to support education and health care nationwide. The Milken Educator Awards

were established in 1985 to celebrate and reward educators who are making great strides in improving the nation's education system. The Milken national conference annually recognizes outstanding national educators who receive the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards, carrying with it a \$25,000 check to each educator.

The 70 teachers from the former Soviet Union participating in this exchange have already visited the United States as part of their program. Ms. Orbon will participate in the reciprocal portion of the program through discussions on English and American studies programs and what effect the introduction of American studies into the foreign language curricula has on teaching in Russia. She may even be invited to teach a class.

The American Councils for International Education, the group sponsoring this teacher exchange, has made a great choice in the selection of Ms. Orbon for their program. She is a leader among the educators of Massachusetts and an invaluable emissary for the United States. The school system of North Brookfield, Massachusetts is blessed to have Ms. Orbon in their classroom, and I am honored to count her among my constituents.

THE FIRST ANNUAL PARKER- O'QUINN TROPHY

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 13, 2000, I had the honor of participating in the presentation of the first annual "Parker-O'Quinn Trophy" to the Fordyce Redbug Football Team. Today, I want to honor the great football rivalry between two great South Arkansas communities, Fordyce and Warren.

Out of this rivalry has come people such as Paul "Bear" Bryant, Larry Lacewell, and other notable leaders and football stars. Out of this came the rivalry between two great coaches, Coach Mickey O'Quinn and Coach Jimmy "Red" Parker.

The Fordyce/Warren football rivalry has always been a major event in South Arkansas. It was never more heated and fierce than during the O'Quinn and Parker era. These two coaches were known for their competitive and innovative approaches to the great game of football.

Both Coach Parker and Coach O'Quinn went on to become legends in their own fields and in their own time. I can attest personally to the feelings of love and affection from those students that played for and learned with them. The lessons learned playing for these two great coaches last a lifetime: determination, dedication, a willingness to work, a strong desire to win, and a spirit of sportsmanship in defeat. All of these lessons make for better citizens and better communities. South Arkansas is blessed to have had two coaches of this caliber pass our way in our time.

There is an uncommon bond of friendship and respect among the players, fans and coaches from the O'Quinn and Parker time; one that goes beyond mere competition. In-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

stead it is a bond that symbolizes the spirit of the people of South Arkansas.

Warren and Fordyce are natural rivals but also natural friends. Never was this more apparent than in the relationship between two coaches that are the most spirited of rivals and the greatest of friends.

Now, we come to a new era and a renewal of the competitive spirit between the two rivals, symbolized by the "Parker-O'Quinn Trophy".

HONORING PASTOR CHARLES SIMS, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Pastor Charles Sims, Jr. for his ten years of dedicated service to Saint Philip Lutheran Church in Gary, Indiana. One of the longest tenured Lutheran pastors to serve in the city of Gary, the members of St. Philip deeply appreciate Pastor Sims unflinching dedication to strengthening the parish community. To recognize his commitment to St. Philip Church, his parishioners are hosting a celebration dinner in his honor, entitled "Staying the Course, Answering the Call," on November 11, 2000.

From modest beginnings, St. Philip has grown into an integral part of the area and neighborhood. The community activism and social awareness displayed by the congregation has made a lasting difference to the citizens of Gary. The parishioners' outreach and concern for their fellow man can be attributed in large part to the efforts of Pastor Sims. He has consistently shown the courage and leadership necessary to effect change in his community.

Originally named Tarrytown Lutheran Church, St. Philip was constructed in 1956 to serve the spiritual needs of African-American Lutherans living on the far west side of Gary. During its dedication service on January 20, 1957, the congregation renamed the Church. On October 22, 1967 the members of the parish dedicated a new educational wing to the church. Located at 3545 West 20th Place in Gary, the church has been a foundation of the community for many years.

Many ministers sustained St. Philip during its first 34 years of existence. Some of the preachers held permanent assignments, while others worked on a part-time basis. On October 21, 1990 the loyal congregation of St. Philip was blessed to have Pastor Sims, a graduate of Chicago University's Lutheran Seminary, accepted the call to lead the St. Philip parish.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Pastor Charles Sims, Jr. for his decade of tireless service to the members of St. Philip Lutheran Church and the Gary community. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding leader in our community, and I hope the people of St. Philip enjoy many more decades under Pastor Sims' spiritual guidance. His vision and spiritual mission have made Northwest Indiana a better place to live and work.

October 19, 2000

RETIRED MARINE COLONEL BRIAN
QUIRK SEEKS PROPER BURIAL
FOR WWII WAR HERO REMAINS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear friend of mine, retired Marine Colonel Brian Quirk, on his endless desire to preserve the lives of our fallen war heroes.

At the annual convention of the Marine Corps League in New Orleans, Louisiana, Colonel Quirk proposed a resolution that the United States Congress demands an apology from the Japanese government. This proposal arose because of unanswered questions regarding incidents on the small Pacific island called Makin Island between August and October of 1942.

In August of 1942, Colonel Quirk was on the submarine with Donnie Robertson of Franklin, Louisiana, a Marine who is thought to have been beheaded by the Japanese on Makin Island. Colonel Quirk and Private Robertson were comrades during WWII en route to Makin Island. They were both privates and members of the Carlson's Raiders, a group of 220 Marines headed by a celebrated fighter who had done a tour with the Chinese Army against the Japanese in the 1930s. They were under the command of James Roosevelt, the son of President Franklin Roosevelt. The mission of the Carlson's Raiders in August of 1942 was to attack the Japanese on Makin Island. It was believed that there were only 100 Japanese on the island. The battle lasted one morning and all the Japanese were believed to be dead.

About 140 wounded American Marines left the island by boat, which left behind about 60 Marines on Makin Island. Private Robertson and four other Marines volunteered to leave the submarine to rescue the remaining men on the island. The five men journeyed in a rubber boat back to the island, but were spotted by Japanese aircraft and bombed in the water. The five men were presumed dead.

From this point on in the story little more is known. However, there is record that nine or ten Marines had surrendered to the Japanese on Makin Island at the end of September. There is also record that nine Marines were beheaded in October of 1942. This leaves many unanswered questions for the family and friends of our fallen war heroes who may have been involved in this attack.

Colonel Quirk is now actively seeking answers, more importantly, an apology from the Japanese government for their inhumane treatment of our Marines. This is a 58-year-old mystery that Colonel Quirk is determined to discover the truth. I commend Colonel Quirk on his quest for the truth.